

Let us not forget this, that the young men and women who went into uniforms have benefited by their experience in the past six years. Not only have they suffered but they have studied. They learned something about life and they will be keener in public affairs than ever before. That statement is borne out by the representation in the House of Commons of young men who served in the armed forces in the present war. Again, I repeat, we owe it to ourselves and we owe it to our people not to go too fast. So far as the maldistribution of the population is concerned it is bound to be rectified in the very near future. I believe that we owe a debt of gratitude to the mover of this resolution. Hon. members will readily realize how useful private members are. Their resolutions usually bring about nation-wide discussion outside the realm of politics. These discussions generally are constructive and conducive to better legislation and to better government.

Mr. J. R. MacNICOL (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, I am not rising to discuss the resolution. If I were I would first congratulate the hon. member for Charlevoix-Saguenay (Mr. Dorion) upon his splendid speech and upon bringing the matter before the house. But I am sorry to say that from my point of view the hon. member for Rosthern (Mr. Tucker) shows such an animus toward the province of Ontario that on any and every matter that pertains to Ontario he cannot help—

Mr. TUCKER: I rise to a point of order. The hon. member has no right to say that I have an animus toward the province of Ontario. My father was born in this province and I have the very kindest feelings for it; but I do say they should not ask for special privileges over other people.

Mr. MacNICOL: Well, we are not asking for any advantage over the other provinces.

Mr. TUCKER: I think the hon. gentleman should withdraw the suggestion that I have an animus toward everything in connection with the province of Ontario.

Mr. MacNICOL: The province of Ontario had nothing whatever to do—

Mr. TUCKER: I should like a ruling on my point of order; and I believe the hon. member is out of order anyway.

Mr. MacNICOL: If the hon. member is hurt by my interpretation of his disposition toward the province of Ontario as animus I am happy to withdraw it. He is a big, good-natured man, and I know he would not display

[Mr. Bradette.]

any animosity toward the province of Ontario unless he was not feeling very well at the time he made the statement.

I think it is imperative that *Hansard* should record the clause which was placed in the British North America Act by the fathers of confederation, not particularly for the benefit of the province of Ontario. I do not know whether this clause was fathered by the delegates from the province of Quebec or by the delegates from either of the maritime provinces; or by the delegates from Ontario. I do not know, but I have always thought whoever fathered it exercised pretty good judgment in the way they laid it out. I will read it; it is paragraph (4) of section 51:

On any such readjustment the number of members for a province shall not be reduced unless the proportion which the number of the population of the province bore to the number of the aggregate population of Canada at the then last preceding readjustment of the number of members for the province is ascertained at the then latest census to be diminished by one twentieth part or upwards.

On the basis of that provision the representation of the province of Ontario has been reduced from ninety-two to eighty-two.

Mr. TUCKER: If I may ask a question, would the hon. gentleman suggest that if by a clause of this kind in the confederation pact a big province like Ontario in the result got, as perhaps it may ultimately, twenty more members than it is entitled to have, the province of Ontario should rely on that provision and hang on to those additional members?

Mr. MacNICOL: Well, a moment ago I withdrew the remark about the hon. gentleman's animus, but unless he remains in his seat he will continue to show it. He can hardly rise in his place without showing that feeling against Ontario and he is better sitting down.

Mr. TUCKER: It is a well known rule that if you cannot answer your opponent's case you should abuse the opposing lawyer.

Mr. MacNICOL: It is not a well known rule that the hon. member for Rosthern should be permitted to take part in everything that comes up in this house. I want to tell him that the people of Ontario, and I am one of them, have the very warmest feelings toward the western provinces and all other provinces.

Mr. TUCKER: They should have.

Mr. MacNICOL: You never hear anyone from Ontario denouncing the other provinces; they are too big for that. Paragraph (4) of section 51 is why on one occasion, or perhaps